

(b) the quantity of uranium reported to have been stolen during the last three years from various uranium facilities of Department of Atomic Energy; and

(c) what steps have been taken to check the theft and smuggling of atomic material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI):

(a) On the 12th October, 1994 it was learnt from the SIB (Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau) Shillong, that 4 persons were caught with 2.5 Kgs. of suspected radioactive material. On an analysis of a sample of the material, it was found to be sodium-di-Uranate, also known as yellow cake, similar to what is being produced at the pilot recovery plant established at Domiasiat by the Atomic Minerals Division of the Department of Atomic Energy. A case under the Atomic Energy Act has been registered and investigations have been taken up by the Meghalaya police authorities.

(b) No thefts of uranium have been reported in the past from any of the Uranium facilities of the Department of Atomic Energy.

(c) Security arrangements have been stepped up following the report of this incidents.

Proposed additional nuclear projects at Tarapur

253. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the execution of two additional upgraded nuclear power projects of 500 m.w. each at Tarapur has virtually been stalled for the past two years merely for lack of central funds;

(b) whether it is also fact that sophisticated equipments like calandrias, reactor headers, pressurised

and primary head transport pumps, worth crores of rupees, had been lying idle at the project site and the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC) spending scarce funds to preserve them;

(c) what is the total amount so far spent by Government for these two units;

(d) whether Government are considering private participation to complete these projects; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that the developed countries like USA etc. do not allow any private participation in such type of projects, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI):

(a) The Tarapur Atomic Power Project (TAPP) 3 & 4 (2x500 MWe.) units was approved and the project financial sanction issued in January 1991. The construction permit was also given by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board for commencing civil works. Commencement of the main plant civil works will be considered in the context of availability of funds.

(b) & (c) Advance action for acquisition of certain critical and long delivery items has already been taken. The total expenditure incurred on the project including the cost of the equipment is Rs. 640 crores. The equipment received at Site has been kept in safe condition.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for private equity participation to set up this project.

(e) In the developed countries like the USA, private sector participation for nuclear power generation is common.

Reserves of Uranium

254. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are huge reserves of uranium at some places in the country;

(b) if so, the locations of these places with quantum of Uranium exploited so far;

(c) whether Government propose to explore the availability of Uranium at more places in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI):

(a) and (b) The Atomic Minerals Division (AMD) of the Department of Atomic Energy has identified uranium reserves totalling 78,000 tonnes of uranium oxide, in indicated and inferred categories at Singhbhum District (Bihar), West Khasi Hills District (Meghalaya), Cuddapah and Nalgonda Districts (Andhra Pradesh) and Rajnandgon and Surguja Districts (Madhya Pradesh).

Three deposits viz., Jaduguda, Bhatin and Narwapahar, Singhbhum District (Bihar), are being exploited by the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL).

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Atomic Minerals Division continuously carries out surveys and exploration for uranium in different parts of the country in various environments. During the course of survey and exploration in the recent

past, significant uranium occurrences have been located in Udaipur District (Rajasthan), Sidhi District (Madhya Pradesh) and Sonbhadra District (Uttar Pradesh) where further detailed investigations are in progress.

(e) Does not arise.

Target for nuclear power generation

255. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the generation of nuclear power by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the achievement made in that regard so far;

(c) whether Government have drawn up any new programme to increase nuclear power generation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI):

(a) A total cumulative installed nuclear generation capacity of 2600 MWe targetted for achievement by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

(b) The present installed nuclear power capacity is 1720 MWe. With the expected commissioning of Kakrapar unit 2 (220 MWe) by December 1994 the total installed capacity in 1995 would be 1940 MWe. Construction work at Kaiga 1 & 2 (2x220 MWe) and Rajasthan 3 and 4 (2x220 MWe) is in progress, with targetted criticality by June 1996/December 1996 and November 1996 and May 1997 respectively.

(c) and (d) The programme for increasing nuclear power generation includes setting up of the Tarapur 2x500 MWe units, 4 units of 220 MWe